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The Little Central American War.

It is not usual to have a war, and have it all over, between two successive issues of the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE*. But that is about what has occurred in Central America the past month. We have been treated to one of those miserable conflicts, now much rarer than formerly, in Latin America, which would not be worth the trouble to record were it not for the conditions out of which they spring.

It has not been easy to find out what it was about. One of those revolutions without which a few of our South and Central American neighbors do not yet seem able to live broke out in Guatemala in May. It seems to have grown out of either the irregularity of the presidential election or the unwillingness of a faction that the president should continue in office longer. Expeditions were worked up and went from Salvador to aid the revolutionists. Various engagements took place between the Guatemalan troops and the revolutionists, the fighting, according to reports, being very stubborn and savage.

As a consequence of the entrance of Guatemalan troops into her territory, Salvador formally entered the conflict, and the war became international. Honduras became involved also with Salvador, because of the aggression of Guatemalan troops upon her territory, and the war seemed on the point of involving the whole northern part if not the whole of Central America. Bad blood was up, and death and destruction were ready to walk abroad.

At this juncture President Roosevelt, through the United States Ministers to Guatemala and Salvador, tendered the good offices of our government with a view to restore peace. His efforts were warmly seconded by the Mexican government. The three Central American governments, in response to these friendly overtures and apparently alarmed at the thought of a bitter and costly war, were induced, to agree to an armistice, which began on the morning of July 19. Their representatives met on the United States Cruiser "Marblehead," on the high seas off the Guatemalan coast, in the presence of the American and Mexican diplomats. On the 20th, after a spirited discussion, terms of peace were agreed to and a treaty signed, and the peace commissioners were landed on their respective coasts that evening and the next morning. That was very quick work, especially in the matter of a war.

We notice that our friend, Senator Gamboa of Mexico, who has attended two recent Mohonk Arbitration Conferences, who is a member of the Hague Court and is now Minister to the Central American States, was one of the Mexican representatives at the Conference, and that he did excellent work in bringing about an agreement. Perhaps he will be able to do still more valuable

service in inducing the Central Americans to quit their squabbling and fighting and to live in peace and order like decent human beings.

The articles of peace provided for the withdrawal of the armies in three days, for disarmament in eight days, for exchange of prisoners and release of political prisoners, for the negotiation of a treaty of friendship, commerce and navigation within two months, and that any difficulties over the treaty and all future concrete complaints between the three countries shall be submitted to the arbitration of the Presidents of the United States and of Mexico. Let us hope that this admirable form of settlement may prove effective in preventing any such conflict in the future.

It is certainly a most encouraging thing that the governments of both the United States and Mexico are so advanced and strong in the general spirit of peacemaking as to have been able, by purely peaceful methods, to arrest this conflict before it assumed large proportions. The spirit in which they acted, a spirit which is now rapidly permeating the whole body of civilized nations, represents an immense advance over the day when nations looked on, perhaps in satisfied silence, and allowed two of their sister nations to fight to the bitter end. The prevention of war is hereafter to be one of the chief concerns and chief glories of the governments of states.

It is germane, also, to remark that the new spirit is pervading the Latin-American peoples perhaps as rapidly, in a way, as any others. In many of them revolutions are practically a thing of the past. International war is now comparatively rare among them, and in arbitration agreements they are in general at the very front. Orderly methods of government are in most of them taking the place of the dictatorships of the past, and there is reason to believe that in a decade or two they will not disgrace themselves any more by such episodes as that of which we have been writing.

Peace Work at the American Institute of Instruction.

For the first time in its seventy-six years of history the American Institute of Instruction, at its meeting at New Haven the 9th-12th of July, took up in a serious way the subject of peace instruction in the public schools. The session devoted to this subject, in the Department of Peace Instruction, of which Mrs. Lucia Ames Mead, Chairman of the Arbitration and Peace Committee of the National Council of Women, had been asked to take charge, was perhaps the best attended of any of the department meetings, the room assigned having to be given up for a larger hall.

An admirable paper on the teaching of history was presented by Dr. William A. Mowry, author of several